

LETTERS

Subject: Purpose and need of support to "National Physicians' Committee for the Extension of Medical Service."

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NATIONAL PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE FOR THE
EXTENSION OF MEDICAL SERVICE†

A nonpolitical, nonprofit organization for maintaining
ethical and scientific standards and extending medical
service to all the people

John M. Pratt, *Executive Administrator*

Chicago, November 16, 1939.

To the Editor:—Enclosed is a little booklet, "The Achilles Heel of American Medicine."* It can be read in five minutes. Quickly, concisely, it gives the details of a situation that is of vital importance. We believe you will be interested.

The folder attached lists the personnel of the initial Central Committee of this group that has undertaken to seriously consider and effectively deal with this truly important problem. It is a gigantic and difficult task that has been undertaken.

This is not just another appeal for money. It is sent in the hope and expectation of vigorous support and coöperation. To a large extent, the degree of effectiveness—or lack of it—will be determined by the energy that must be used in merely securing financial support.

Will you please read the little booklet twice? Will you carefully consider the stated objectives and appraise the personnel? Then, if you are in sympathy, will you use the little slip enclosed and on it indicate the extent of the support you will give?

The Committee's first bank deposit was \$4,000—four one thousand dollar checks. One of these was from a well-known clinic. There will be important lay support of this effort—*If the doctors do their part. We need \$250,000.*

There are two needs. First, for immediate funds for preliminary efforts; second, for sustaining funds payable quarterly or monthly. Some can aid to the extent of \$1,000 or more; some \$500; some \$100; others to the extent of \$50, \$25, \$10, or \$5. We want support only in proportion to ability. We hope you will feel that, in this case, generosity will be well justified.

Please, may we have your opinion—and your contribution in an amount as large as you can afford.

700 North Michigan Avenue.

Sincerely yours,

NATIONAL PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE FOR THE
EXTENSION OF MEDICAL SERVICE.

N. S. Davis, III, *Treasurer.*

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November 2, 1939.

To the Editor:—The men within the medical profession must determine what its future is to be. In this belief, steps have been taken to set up an organization of physicians whose purpose is to make every effort to safeguard the independence and the standards of American Medicine, and to aid in providing the public with the utmost in medical service.

These preliminary steps have resulted in establishing an initial executive board. Its personnel is shown on this

* The brochure, "The Achilles Heel of American Medicine," appears in this issue on page 360.

† Executive Board: Dr. Edward H. Cary, chairman, Dallas; Dr. Austin Hayden, secretary, Chicago; Dr. N. S. Davis, III, treasurer; Dr. Irvin Abell, Louisville; Dr. F. F. Borzell, Philadelphia; Dr. William F. Braasch, Rochester; Dr. John A. Hartwell, New York; Dr. Roger I. Lee, Boston; Dr. Alphonse McMahon, St. Louis; Dr. E. H. Skinner, Kansas City; Dr. Charles B. Wright, Minneapolis.

letterhead. The general outline of its objectives is enclosed in the form of a memorandum. Please read it carefully.

The Executive Committee has invited John M. Pratt, formerly Director of Activities of the Physicians' Committee for Free Enterprise in Medicine, to act as executive Administrator. Mr. Pratt has resigned from the National Committee to Uphold Constitutional Government in order to accept this invitation. . . .

Sincerely yours,

NATIONAL PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE FOR THE
EXTENSION OF MEDICAL SERVICE.

Austin Hayden, *Secretary.*

Subject: Examinations for registered nurses.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE NURSES' ASSOCIATION, INC.

San Francisco, November 10, 1939.

To the Editor:—May we ask that you publicize the following information, as we believe physicians will be interested in helping older nurses not registered to become registered nurses.

A special examination for graduate nurses who are not now registered but wish to continue to practice as graduate nurses after March 1, 1940, will be held on January 24, 1940.

This is of interest particularly to nurses who have been graduated for some time. Applications may be secured from Board of Nurse Examiners, 515 Van Ness Avenue, Room 210, San Francisco; State Building, Los Angeles, Room 906; State Office Building, Sacramento, Room 401.

Completed applications must be on file in Sacramento not later than January 3, 1940.

609 Sutter Street at Mason.

Sincerely yours,

HARRIOTT L. P. FRIEND,

Director at Headquarters.

Subject: 1939 Christmas Seal sale of the California Tuberculosis Association.

CALIFORNIA TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION

San Francisco, November 10, 1939.

To the Editor:—We are sending you the enclosed copy with the hope that you might find space for it in the December issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

Your generous coöperation in carrying material about our work and annual Seal sale in past years has prompted us to again seek your assistance.

45 Second Street.

W. F. HIGBY, *Executive Secretary.*

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TUBERCULOSIS AND THE ADULT

The program of the California Tuberculosis Association is generally known to physicians throughout the state. They are familiar with school tuberculosis examinations sponsored by local medical societies and partly or wholly financed by Christmas Seal funds in nearly every county in the state. These are conducted to demonstrate the value of the tuberculin test and chest x-ray as a case-finding and health education procedure. They are also familiar with the follow-up school program in which public health nurses are hired to contact the family of students who react to the tuberculin test, and endeavor to bring the whole family to their own doctor for examination.

Last year 84,887 students and school employees were examined by tuberculosis associations in California working in coöperation with state and local medical associations, health departments, school departments, and civic organizations. Of the total tested, 17,676, or 21 per cent, reacted, and 234 cases of adult type tuberculosis were dis-